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National Farm Safety Week Starts July 20

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THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

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THE BURNS WERE ON THE HANDS

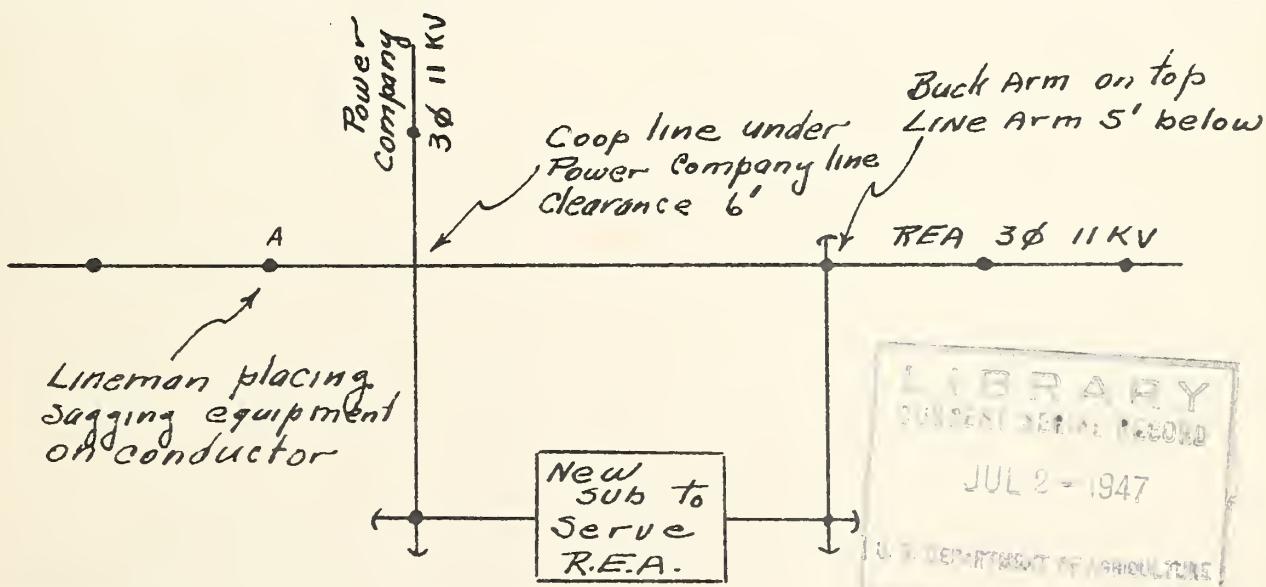
Lineman Was Not Wearing Rubber Gloves

A new substation had been built to take power from a local power company. A crew was sagging in a three-phase conductor on the coop line. This conductor passed under the power company line and would have about 6 feet of clearance when pulled to final sag. A 1/2-inch rope had been placed over the line to be sagged so that men on the ground could hold it down and prevent it from flipping into the power company line.

A lineman climbed pole (A) to attach sagging equipment. The slack was pulled up

accidentally and the conductor flipped up into the energized power company line. No one had hold of the 1/2-inch rope placed over the conductor.

The lineman who was not wearing rubber gloves received 3rd degree burns on the first and middle fingers of his right hand and 3rd degree burns on all fingers of his left hand. The shock caused his hooks to cut out and he fell about 20 feet. His safety belt was in place and retarded his fall. The accident was not fatal.



THE REA LINEMAN

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for Employees of REA-financed Systems

David A. Fleming, Editor

WHY FARM SAFETY?

- EDITORIAL -

Why do we observe National Farm Safety Week? Why should every lineman and co-op employee be interested in promoting and publicizing this yearly activity?

The answer is simple. Co-op employees are helping to bring the efficiencies, comforts and conveniences of modern living and working to the rural areas of America. When these facilities are used carefully, they can bring about a total change in the rural way of life. Used carelessly, however, they may prove more of a hindrance than a blessing.

Therefore, we believe that it is the responsibility of every co-op employee not only to practice safety in all his work but also to spread the cause of farm safety wherever he goes. He should recognize the average farmer's self-reliance and reluctance to call for expert help when a job of wiring or electrical repair has to be done. And he must impress that farmer in every way he can with the importance of running his farm safely, even if the farmer's desire to 'do it himself' must be side-tracked.

Bulging accident files indicate that the farmer tries to do these electrical jobs because he does not understand the danger involved. The co-op employee must help to educate the farmer to the hazards inherent in slipshod, amateur electrical work on the farm.

Electrical safety on the farm, of course, is only one small part of all farm safety but it is an important part. It was one of the reasons behind National Farm Safety Week.

The National Safety Council conceived the idea of a farm safety week in 1944. The purpose was to give the farmer's safety problem some much-needed national publicity and to reduce the thousands of needless deaths and the hundreds of thousands of needless injuries which result from farming each year.

National Farm Safety Week is now sponsored by the National Safety Council and the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the National Fire Protection

PRIMACORD REDUCES BLASTING ACCIDENTS

Primacord is a detonating fuse, contained in a waterproof sheath overlaid with reinforcing coverings. Its detonating velocity is almost four miles per second. It is flexible, lightweight and easy to handle. Splices and connections are simple. Primacord is very stable under ordinary conditions. Friction, ordinary shock and fire will not cause it to 'go off'. The reinforced covering protects it from injury during the tamping operation. Primacord is not injured by high storage temperatures and it does not deteriorate if stored for long periods. It must be remembered, however, that Primacord is a high explosive and explodes violently when it is 'set off'. For that reason it should be handled as any high explosive.

Advantages of Primacord:

1. Not likely to detonate accidentally.
2. When placed in contact with blasting charge, does not increase the hazard as does the blasting cap or electric blasting cap.
3. Misfires can be dug out without the danger of Primacord setting off the charge.
4. Blast hole can be charged and tamped without danger of Primacord being 'set off'.
5. After all work is finished, a blasting cap or electrical blasting cap is attached to the end of the Primacord which is above the hole, and workmen can leave the area.

Eat More Salt In Hot Weather

Heat exhaustion, sometimes wrongly called 'sunstroke', is due to body salt deficiency. The excessive perspiration of hot weather causes the loss of body salt. For that reason it is necessary to eat an extra amount to be safe. This can be done in two ways - by using more salt on food or by taking salt tablets daily.

Association, the Farm Equipment Institute, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the Farmers' Union, the National Grange, the American Red Cross, and other organizations engaged in agricultural activities.

Round-Up Of Safety And Job Training

The University of Florida, cooperating with the Southeastern Meterman's Association, held its twenty-second short course and conference on electrical meters and relays at Gainesville, May 5 - 9. One hundred thirty-five metermen from the southeastern states attended. This annual event has been increasingly successful in drawing top-notch metermen from a wide area. The course is highly technical and unsuited to beginners. However, the University will provide more elementary instruction if there is sufficient interest. REA checked a group of systems interested in developing skilled metermen and found great interest in such a course. It is hoped that a beginners' course will be offered next year to teach beginners how to tear down, clean, repair, and re-assemble meters and then test and adjust them. The Editor of THE LINEMAN would be glad to hear from anyone interested in such a course.

Virginia line foremen gathered in Richmond for a 3-day conference May 19, 20, 21, Linscott Ballentine, teacher trainer under the direction of Dr. B. H. Van Oot, led the discussion. O. L. Heath assisted. At the close of the meeting the foremen and system managers expressed the opinion that this conference was the most successful ever held in Virginia.

The Mississippi Job Training and Safety Advisory Committee has decided to hold two foremen's training conferences each year. The first session, consisting of two sections, was held May 12 - 13 at State College and May 27 - 28 at Jackson. Special emphasis was placed on job planning and team work.

Dates and places for the second conference have not yet been announced.

FOUR FATAL ACCIDENTS

An employee charged a rock hole with powder, installed the electric blasting cap and laid out the leads to the battery. He attached one lead to a battery terminal and left the other disconnected, but touching the battery case. He then returned to the hole. The charge detonated and killed him. The case of the battery was actually the ground connection and the wire resting against it had finally made good connection, causing a current to flow and set off the charge prematurely.

A lineman who was not wearing rubber gloves, was working in a substation, boring a hole in the end of a cross arm. An energized stringer wire was dangling near by. As the bit was removed from the hole, contact was made with this energized wire and the resulting 2300-volt shock was fatal.

A line crew was setting a pole near a 44 KV line owned by a power company. The pole was raised by a winch truck and two men were handling the butt end. The top of the pole touched the 44 KV line and the men received an electrical shock, knocking them to the ground. They were both seriously burned and unconscious. The truck operator sensed that something was wrong and stepped from the truck to investigate. The instant his foot struck the ground he received a fatal electrical shock, because the pole was still in contact with the winch on the truck and with the 44 KV line.

A lineman and a groundman were inspecting lines to locate radio interference. The lineman climbed a transformer pole on a three-phase line and apparently made accidental contact with an energized portion of the cut-out. He was not wearing rubber gloves and apparently did not use a hot stick. His left foot was in contact with the lower bracket of the transformer and he received burns on his left thumb and left foot. Pole top resuscitation was not attempted and resuscitation on the ground was unsuccessful.

EMPLOYEE ACCIDENTS REPORTED MARCH 1947

	ELECTRIC SHOCK	POLE HANDLING & UNLOADING	TREE TRIMMING	HOOKS CUT OUT	TRUCK	POLE SETTING	DYNAMITE	OTHER
No Time Lost	0	0	0	4	8	0	0	12
Disabling	1	5	9	0	2	3	1	10
Fatal	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	0
Total	1	5	10	4	13	3	1	22

Dere Edditer

Sure been feelin' mighty poorly since I wrote you last time. That place where I chewed my leg up with the gaff swelled up a coupla days later and they took me to the hospital. There was big red streaks up my leg and swelled up places in my groin. The doctor said it was blood poison. Ben says they might have to cut my leg off just below my ears. He says some guys just got to learn the hard way -- the trouble is, by the time you get 'em learned some important part of 'em is missing. He says a lineman often needs four hands and he always needs two feet and the main reason he needs legs is cause they got feet on one end of them. Ben says that the thing a lineman uses most is his head and if he can't use his head to think with you can't make a lineman out of him.

Ben says there ain't no cause for having blood poison -- 2 reasons. First, learn to do the job right and be able to think the job through so you don't hurt your self or your buddies. Second, take a Red Cross First Aid course so you can help yourself or the other fellow if an accident results in injury. Ben says they have been so busy doing construction work since the war ended that they have been neglecting Red Cross First Aid classes but they are going to get started again soon.

It's going to be a long stretch between pay days this trip.

I. M. Neuman

When Is An Underground Cable Dead?

1. When it is disconnected from the supply line, and 2. Shorted out and grounded.

Do you have any underground cable on your system? If so, it may represent a real hazard when it is disconnected for repair. Underground cable of sufficient length and carrying high enough voltage will act as a capacitor due to capacitance between conductors or from conductor to sheath. After an underground conductor is disconnected it may possess a dangerous residual electrostatic charge. Short circuiting and bonding the conductors to the sheath and then grounding will eliminate this danger.



Acknowledgement

'Accidents Don't Add Up' published in our May issue, should have been identified as a reprint from the Missouri Safety News Letter.

JUST IMAGINE

Just imagine how you would feel if you were climbing a pole and about the time you reached two thirds of the way up, you suddenly discovered that the wire lying across your safety belt was energized and carrying 7200 volts. This very thing happened. Luckily, the lineman was wearing rubber gloves. This lineman was working in accord with the REA rule of wearing rubber gloves on energized lines, and was able to take hold of the wire and prevent it from touching any part of his body or causing further damage. Rubber gloves are not to be used in handling 7200 volts, except in case of emergencies. Such an emergency might be a cracked insulator. When an insulator is broken or cracked, we cannot ascertain whether it is dangerously cracked enough to permit the conductor to fall - so we can't take chances. Extreme care should be taken until the conductor is grasped by the hot line tool and held in place.

(Adapted from - Missouri Safety News Letter)